[11]	[21]	51074

[54] ISOQUINOLINIUM DERIVATIVES, THEIR PREPARATION AND PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITIONS CONTAINING THEM

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[57] Compounds of the formula

$$Z^{1} \xrightarrow{+N} A.CO.O.L.O.CO.B$$

$$R^{2}$$

$$R^{3}$$

$$R^{5}$$

$$Z^{2}$$

wherein Z¹ and Z² are the same or different and each represents a methylenedioxy substituent, or up to three methoxy substituents;

R² and R³ are the same or different and each is alkyl having 1 -3 carbon atoms;

R⁴ and R⁵ are the same or different and each is a benzyl or phenethyl group wherein the phenyl ring is optionally substituted by one or more of halogen, alkoxy having 1 to 3 carbon atoms and methylenedioxy;

A and B are the same or different and each is an alkylene radical containing 1, 2 or 3 carbon atoms:

L is an alkylene chain having from 2 to 12 carbon atoms or is a group -L'.O.L² wherein each of L' and L² is alkylene having at least two carbon atoms and taken together L' and L² have up to 11 carbon atoms; and

X⁻ is an anion.

The process for the preparation of such

compounds comprises inter alia:
(A) quaternising a ditertiary base of the formula

$$Z^1$$
 $N.A.CO.O.L.O.CO.B.$ N R^5

or a corresponding monotertiary base wherein one of the isoquinoline groups is substituted in the 2-position by a group R² or R³, with a quaternising agent suitable for introducing one or both of R² and R³ as appropriate; or

(b) esteritying a compound of the formula

$$Z^1$$
 $+N$
 R^2
 $J.Q$

by reaction with a compound of formula Q^1 .L. Q^2

wherein J is alkylene having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, Q and Q¹ are functional groups or atoms which react together to form an ester linkage, and Q² is a functional group which will react with Q to form an ester linkage or a group.

The compounds are for use as active ingredients of pharmaceutical compositions having neuromuscular blocking activity.